

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless communication unit comprising:
a transceiver suitable to support an air interface with a first wireless
5 communication network and with a second wireless communication network;
a user interface operable to initiate a call to a number of a target unit; and
a controller, coupled to the transceiver and the user interface, and operable,
responsive to the call initiation and when the wireless communication unit is
operating in the second wireless communication network, to selectively hairpin the
10 call through the first communication network.
2. The wireless communication unit of claim 1 wherein the controller, to
selectively hairpin, is:
further operable to determine when the call is likely to be handed into the first
15 communication network; and
further operable, if the call is likely to be handed into the first communication
network, to hairpin the call through the first communication network.
3. The wireless communication unit of claim 2 wherein the controller, to hairpin
20 the call through the first communication network, is further operable with the
transceiver to call a hairpin number terminating at the first communication network
and transfer information corresponding to the number of the target unit to the first
communication network.

4. The wireless communication unit of claim 3 wherein the hairpin number is one of: a toll free number, stored in a memory associated with the controller, received from the first communication network, and a number that terminates on a proximate communication network.

5. The wireless communication unit of claim 3 wherein the controller is further operable to call the hairpin number and transfer the information in a manner that is transparent to a user of the wireless communication unit.

6. The wireless communication unit of claim 2 wherein the controller, to determine when the call is likely to be handed into the first communication network, is further operable to determine one of a location of the wireless communication unit and availability of the first communication network.

7. The wireless communication unit of claim 6 wherein the controller is further operable to compare the location of the wireless communication unit to location information corresponding to the first communication network and when the comparison is favorable to scan for the first communication network.

8. The wireless communication unit of claim 7 wherein the controller, to scan for the first communication network, is further operable to aggressively scan for the first communication network only when one of: the wireless communication unit is engaged in the call; the controller determines that the call may be initiated; and the controller determines that its location is compares favorably to the location information corresponding to the first communication network.
9. The wireless communication unit of claim 6 wherein the controller, to determine the location of the wireless communication unit, is further operable to determine one of geographical location information and information corresponding to the second communication network.
10. The wireless communication unit of claim 6 wherein the controller, to determine availability of the first communication network, is further operable to learn location information corresponding to the first communication network.
11. The wireless communication unit of claim 1 wherein the second communication network is a wide area network, the first communication network is a wireless local area network, and the number of the target unit corresponds to a number other than a number terminating at the first communication network.

12. A method in a wireless communication unit of selectively routing a call that is being originated, the method comprising:
- initiating a call to a number of a target unit; and
 - automatically selectively hairpinning the call through a first communication
- 5 network when the call is being originated in a second communication network and the call is terminating at the second communication network.
13. The method of claim 12 further comprising determining when the call is likely to be handed into the first communication network and selectively hairpinning the call
- 10 through the first communication network when the call is likely to be handed into the first communication network.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the automatically selectively hairpinning the call further comprises calling a hairpin number terminating at the first communication
- 15 network and transferring information corresponding to the number of the target unit to the first communication network.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the hairpin number is one of: a toll free number, stored in a memory associated with the controller, received from the first
- 20 communication network, and a number that terminates on a proximate communication network.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the calling the hairpin number and the transferring the information is performed in a manner that is transparent to a user of the wireless communication unit.
- 5 17. The method of claim 13 wherein the determining when the call is likely to be handed into the first communication network further comprises determining one of a location of the wireless communication unit and availability of the first communication network.
- 10 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising comparing the location of the wireless communication unit to location information corresponding to the first communication network and when the comparison is favorable scanning for the first communication network.
- 15 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the scanning for the first communication network further comprises aggressively scanning for the first communication network only when one of: the wireless communication unit is engaged in the call on the second communication network; and the call may be initiated.
- 20 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the determining the location of the wireless communication unit further comprises determining one of geographical location information for the wireless communication unit and information corresponding to the second communication network.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the determining availability of the first communication network further comprises learning location information corresponding to the first communication network.

5 22. The method of claim 12 wherein the second communication network is a wide area network, the first communication network is a wireless local area network, the wireless communication unit is operable in the first and the second communication network, and the number of the target unit corresponds to a number other than a number terminating at the first communication network.

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23. The method of claim 12 further comprising one of:
determining when the call is a long distance call and selectively hairpinning the call through the first communication network when the call is a long distance call' and

15 determining when the call is a business related call and selectively hairpinning the call through the first communication network when the call is a business related call.

24. A network controller operable to facilitate hairpinning calls from a wireless communication unit, the network controller comprising:

a switching function coupled to a local area network and a public switched telephone system; and

5 a controller, coupled to the switching function and comprising an associated memory, operable to provide hairpin information to the wireless communication unit.

25. The network controller of claim 24 wherein the controller provides the hairpin information to the wireless communication unit when one of: the wireless

10 communication unit requests the hairpin information; and when the wireless communication unit is associated with the local area network.

26. The network controller of claim 24 wherein the hairpin information comprises one of: a hairpin number; and information for use by the wireless communication unit

15 in determining whether a call to be initiated by the wireless communication unit should be hairpinned.

27. The network controller of claim 26 wherein the information for use in determining whether the call to be initiated by the wireless communication unit

20 should be hairpinned further comprises one of: geographic location information corresponding to the local area network; and network information corresponding to another communication network.